

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are canceled.

Claims 25-34 are added.

Claims 25-34 are pending.

I. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-24 are rejected under *35 U.S.C. § 102(e)*. Claims 1-24 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and thus the rejections of these claims have been rendered moot.

II. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 8, 9, 13, 15, and 20-22 are rejected under *35 U.S.C. § 103(a)*. Claims 8, 9, 13, 15, and 20-22 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and thus the rejections of these claims have been rendered moot.

III. CONCLUSION

Claims 1-24 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 25-34 have been added.

The Applicant has added new Claims 25-34 to more clearly define the present invention.

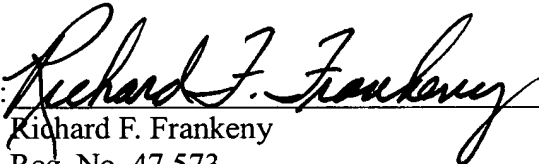
The Applicants, therefore, respectfully assert that new Claims 25-34 are in condition for allowance and request an early allowance of these claims.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call Applicants' attorney at the below listed number if the Examiner believes that such a discussion would be helpful in resolving any remaining problems.

Respectfully submitted,

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